

**SURVEY CONCERNING THE USE OF
OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE FOR CHILDREN
AGED BETWEEN 3 AND 12 YEARS**

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PREFACE

In support of its policy, Kind en Gezin regularly conducts a survey concerning the use of child care for children under the age of 3 years. Since 1997 Kind en Gezin is also responsible for the out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years. Also in this area, Kind en Gezin wishes to closely follow the use of child care.

Already in 1999 a large-scale study concerning child care in Flanders investigated the use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years, but the sample survey for schoolgoing children was rather limited.

In her policy statement concerning out-of-school care, the Flemish Minister Mieke Vogels assigned Kind en Gezin the task to develop a programming instrument in order to increase the number of spaces in Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs). In order to develop this programming instrument, Kind en Gezin needed more detailed information concerning the users of out-of-school care. That is why in 2002 a large-scale survey concerning the use of out-of-school care was conducted, which also provided reliable information with regard to the distribution of care by province.

Due to the complex situation during school holidays this first survey was limited to the use of out-of-school care during a normal school week.

This report provides an answer to the following questions: How many parents and children make use of out-of-school care during a normal school week? At what age do most children make use of out-of-school care? Which type of care is used? And at what time of the week do most children make use of out-of-school care?

Where possible, the results of this report are compared with the results of the study conducted in 1999.

If you want to learn more about child care in Flanders, please consult the annual reports of Kind en Gezin, the annual reports concerning child care, the Kind en Gezin website (<http://www.kindengezin.be>) or the child care website (<http://www.kinderopvang.be>).

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I. INTRODUCTION

From the 9th to the 30th of November 2002 Kind en Gezin carried out a random sample survey of children aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region concerning the use of out-of-school care.

In this introduction we take a closer look at a number of technical aspects of the study and we indicate to what extent the results of the 1999 survey can be compared with those of the 2002 survey.

2002 Survey

1. Content of the Questionnaire

The study investigates to what extent people make use of out-of-school care in the week preceding the survey. If the child was ill that week, the survey refers to the week preceding the child's illness. This study specifically investigates the use of out-of-school care during a normal school week outside school holidays.

The parents had to indicate per day and per instance of care, i.e. before or after school and on Wednesday afternoons, whether or not they made use of out-of-school care and which type of care was used.

2. Target Group, Sample Size and Method of Drawing

- Target group

The target group consisted of children aged between 3 and 12 years living in the Flemish Region.

- Sample Size and Method of Drawing

The sample size was fixed at 5000 respondents. The number of children to be questioned per year of age and per province was based on the NIS data concerning the distribution of the population according to age per province.

In order to conduct the surveys concerning the use of child care for children under the age of 3 years, Kind en Gezin disposed of the IKAROS database with information on all children in Flanders. For children aged between 3 and 12 years Kind en Gezin does not dispose of a recent database. That is why the commissioned agency used a commercial database of 35.000 families in Flanders with children under the age of 18 years. From this database a random sample of 5000 children was drawn.

3. Method of Questioning

Due to positive experiences with telephone questionnaires (i.e. the survey concerning the use of child care by children aged between 0 and 3 years in 2001), we again opted for a telephone questionnaire. The questionnaire was conducted by the Merlijn Research Bureau in Adegem.

4. Response

In total, 5.065 questionnaires were filled in. However, a number of telephone numbers did not correspond with the addresses from the database. With these addresses included, the response of the random sample was 70%, which is considerable. When the addresses with an incorrect telephone number are not included the response was 75 %.

The differences in response according to the province lead to a limited weighing in order to restore the proportions of the population. Therefore, the number of cases in the tables can differ slightly.

1999 HIVA Survey

The 1999 HIVA (Higher Institute for Labour) survey included children up to the age of 12 years, and divided them into three separate subpopulations, i.e. children aged between 3 months and 2 ½ years, children aged between 2 ½ and 6 years and children aged between 6 and 12 years. Unlike the 2002 survey, this survey was conducted by means of a written questionnaire and was based on a different list of questions. Especially for the two eldest subpopulations the number of children was rather limited. A sample survey of 809 respondents can indicate general tendencies but a larger sample size is required in order to include a subdivision of the distribution according to the province and district. Whereas a sample survey of minimum 5000 respondents has a 2% margin of error, a sample survey of 222 respondents aged between 6 and 12 years has a 7% margin of error.

It is therefore not possible to compare the results of the 2002 and the 1999 survey for every item.

II. THE USE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE FOR CHILDREN AGED BETWEEN 3 AND 12 YEARS

1. To what extent do people make use of out-of-school care?

1.1. In the Flemish Region

In the autumn of 2002 nearly 45 % of the children aged between 3 and 12 years were cared for by other persons or facilities than the parents during a normal school week. This means that in the course of one week they were at least once taken care of before or after school or on Wednesday afternoon. As expected, children aged between 3 and 6 years make more use of out-of-school care than children aged between 6 and 12 years, namely 53,6% as opposed to 40,5 %.

Table 1 – Use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region in 2002

	3 to 6 years N = 1639	6 to 12 years N = 3423	3 to 12 years N = 5065
Use of out-of-school care	53,6	40,5	44,7
Non-use of out-of-school care	46,4	59,5	55,3

In the introduction we already indicated that the 1999 HIVA survey was conducted by means of a different method of questioning and that the sample size was limited. In order to gain more insight into the evolution of the use of out-of-school care we did however include the figures from the 1999 HIVA survey as an indication.

Table 2 – Use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region in 1999¹

	3 to 6 years N = 587	6 to 12 years N = 222
Use of out-of-school care	49,4	28,6
Non-use of out-of-school care	50,6	71,4

¹ Vanpée K., L.Sannen and G. Hedeboew (2000), "Child Care in Flanders: use, choice of child care type and evaluation by parents", p. 42

In comparison with 1999 the use of out-of-school care has increased in 2002. For the group of children aged between 6 and 12 years we record an increase of more than 10 %. However, you must take into account that both studies used different questionnaires and questioning methods and that a small sample survey has a 7% margin of error.

1.2. According to the Province

The use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years differs significantly according to the province. The highest percentages were recorded in the provinces of East Flanders and Flemish Brabant, namely 49,5 % and 46,4%, while the lowest percentage was recorded in the province of Limburg, namely nearly 5% lower than in the Flemish Region.

For the group of children aged between 3 and 6 years, the use of out-of-school care does not differ significantly according to the province. The highest percentage is recorded in Flemish Brabant with nearly 57 % usage. The province of Limburg is the only province with a percentage below 50%.

The use of out-of-school care does however differ significantly for the group of children aged between 6 and 12 years. The lowest percentages were recorded in the provinces of Limburg and Antwerp, while the highest percentage was recorded in the province of East Flanders with 46,7 %.

Table 3 – Percentage of children aged between 3 and 12 years using out-of-school care in 2002 according to the province

	3 to 6 years N = 1639 (1)	6 to 12 years N = 3423 (2)	3 to 12 years N = 5065 (3)
Antwerp	53,7	37,6	43,0
Flemish Brabant	56,9	41,5	46,4
West Flanders	51,8	39,4	43,3
East Flanders	55,4	46,7	49,5
Limburg	48,1	36,3	39,9
Flemish Region	53,6	40,5	44,7

(1) $\chi^2 = 4,697$ df = 4 p = 0,32 (ns.)

(2) $\chi^2 = 19,233$ df = 4 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

(3) $\chi^2 = 20,302$ df = 4 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

1.3. According to the District

The use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 12 years also differs significantly according to the district. Children in the districts of Aalst and Eeklo make the most use of out-of-school care, while children in the districts of Veurne, Maaseik and Tongeren make the least use of out-of-school care.

Table 4 - Percentage of children aged between 3 and 12 years using out-of-school care in 2002 according to the district (N=5065) (1)

Antwerp	43,0	Antwerp	43,2
		Mechelen	43,4
		Turnhout	42,1
Flemish Brabant	46,4	Halle- Vilvoorde	44,8
		Leuven	47,8
West Flanders	43,3	Brugge	42,7
		Diksmuide	41,5
		Ieper	40,4
		Kortrijk	47,8
		Oostende	39,7
		Roeselare	50,4
		Tielt	38,4
		Veurne	32,6
East Flanders	49,5	Aalst	53,8
		Dendermonde	40,8
		Eeklo	57,7
		Gent	51,3
		Oudenaarde	52,7
		Sint-Niklaas	43,1
Limburg	39,9	Hasselt	45,7
		Maaseik	34,0
		Tongeren	34,8
Flemish Region	44,7		

(1) $\chi^2 = 50,669$ $df = 21$ $p \leq 0,001$ (s.)

For the group of children aged between 3 and 6 years the use of out-of-school care does not differ significantly according to the district.

The use of out-of-school care does however differ significantly for the group of children aged between 6 and 12 years. Please consult the enclosure for the percentages for both age groups per district.

1.4. According to the Child's Age

The previous tables already indicated that children aged between 3 and 6 years clearly make more use of out-of-school care than children aged between 6 and 12 years. The youngest children make the most use of out-of-school care (55,6%), while the 11-year-olds make the least use of it (30,5%). The use of care differs significantly according to the children's age category.

It is striking how the use falls from 48,2% to 39,9% from 8 to 9-year-olds.

From the age of 10 years less than 1 child in 3 makes use of care.

A possible explanation for this is the fact that a number of children from the age of 10 years stay at home alone (or with an elder sibling) until one of the parents comes home.

Table 5 - Use of out-of-school care in the Flemish Region according to the child's age – 2002 (N = 5064) (1)

	Child Care	No Child Care	Total
3 years	55,6	44,4	100,0
4 years	55,3	44,7	100,0
5 years	49,9	50,1	100,0
6 years	48,9	51,1	100,0
7 years	43,1	56,9	100,0
8 years	48,2	51,8	100,0
9 years	39,9	60,1	100,0
10 years	32,4	67,6	100,0
11 years	30,5	69,5	100,0
Total	44,7	55,3	100,0

(1) $\chi^2 = 151,260$ df = 8 p ≤ 0,001 (s.)

1.5. According to the Mother's Occupational Situation

The mother's occupational situation appears to be an important factor in the use or non-use of out-of-school care. 57,4% of the children with a full time working mother and 54,7% of the children with a part time working mother make use of out-of-school care. 26,6 % of the children whose mother is self-employed or assists a self-employed husband make use of child care. Merely 10% of the children with a non-working mother make use of out-of-school care.

Table 6 - Use of out-of-school care in the Flemish Region according to the mother's occupational situation – 2002 (N=5035)

	Use of out-of-school care	Non-use of out-of-school care	Total
Full time job	57,4	42,6	100,0
Part time job	54,7	45,3	100,0
Self-employed or assisting a self-employed husband	26,9	73,1	100,0
Non-working	10,0	90,0	100,0

1.6. According to the Intensity of Care

1.6.1. In the Flemish Region

Table 7 shows the intensity of care before school in comparison with the intensity of care after school. Nearly 63 % of the children using out-of-school care are not or only once per week cared for before school. More than 17% of the users are cared for 4 or 5 days per week both before and after school.

Although nine care patterns are possible, table 7 shows that more than 80 % of the users are situated in 4 out of 9 care patterns.

Table 7 - Use of out-of-school care in the Flemish Region according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=2265) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	18,8	20,2	23,9	62,8
	Moderate use	3,7	5,4	0,8	9,9
	Frequent use	7,4	2,2	17,7	27,2
	Total	29,8	27,8	42,4	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care

Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care

Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

1.6.1. According to the Province

Not only the percentage of users differs according to the province, also the intensity of use differs (table 8 to table 12). The intensity of use is highest in the province of Flemish Brabant. Nearly 32 % of the users in this province are 4 or 5 days per week cared for after school and not or once before school. This percentage is nearly 8 % higher than in the Flemish Region. Also the percentage of users who are 4 or 5 days per week cared for both before and after school is highest in Flemish Brabant. The intensity of use is also higher in the province of East Flanders than in the Flemish Region. In the provinces of Antwerp, Limburg and West Flanders however, the intensity of use is lower than in the Flemish Region.

Table 8 - Use of out-of-school care in the province of Antwerp according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=605) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	18,0	23,5	22,8	64,3
	Moderate use	5,1	8,1	0,7	13,9
	Frequent use	6,3	1,5	14,0	21,8
	Total	29,4	33,1	37,5	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care
 Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care
 Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

Table 9 - Use of out-of-school care in the province of Flemish Brabant according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=407) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	17,0	17,0	31,7	65,6
	Moderate use	2,9	3,2	0,7	6,9
	Frequent use	4,4	1,2	21,9	27,5
	Total	24,3	21,4	54,3	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care
 Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care
 Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

Table 10 - Use of out-of-school care in the province of West Flanders according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=417) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	24,9	19,4	18,0	62,4
	Moderate use	4,3	3,6	0,5	8,4
	Frequent use	11,5	2,2	15,6	29,3
	Total	40,8	25,2	34,1	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care

Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care

Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

Table 11 - Use of out-of-school care in the province of East Flanders according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=561) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	15,5	19,8	25,3	60,6
	Moderate use	2,3	3,9	1,6	7,8
	Frequent use	7,3	3,6	20,7	31,6
	Total	25,1	27,3	47,6	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care

Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care

Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

Table 12 - Use of out-of-school care in the province of Limburg according to the intensity of care – 2002 (N=274) (1)

		AFTER SCHOOL			
		No or little use	Moderate use	Frequent use	Total
BEFORE SCHOOL	No or little use	20,4	20,0	20,7	61,1
	Moderate use	4,0	8,4	0,4	12,7
	Frequent use	8,0	1,8	16,4	26,2
	Total	32,4	30,2	37,5	100,0

(1) No or little use stands for 0 or 1 instance of care

Moderate use stands for 2 to 3 instances of care

Frequent use stands for 4 to 5 instances of care

2. Which Authority is Responsible for Out-of-school Care?

2.1. Used Types of Care

The majority of users (86,7 %) have only used one type of care during the questioned week. For those who made use of several types of care, only the main type of care was registered. For 2,9 % of the users the main type of care has not been registered since they made equal use of two or three types during the questioned week.

Table 13 – Main type of care for children aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region - 2002 (users)

Main type of Care - percentage of users			
	3 to 6 years (N=879)	6 to 12 years (N=1386)	3 to 12 years (N=2265)
Grandparents	42,5	43,5	43,1
Other family members	1,8	2,8	2,4
Neighbours, friends	2,3	2,8	2,6
Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBO)	13,4	11,7 30,0	12,4
Care provided by and in school	25,8	1,6	28,4
Private child minding family	2,9	1,2	2,0
Child minding family affiliated to a service	2,2	0,9 0,1	1,5
Subsidised day care centre	1,3	2,8	1,1
Private day care centre	1,3		0,6
Other	3,2		3,0
2 or 3 types of care which are equally important	3,3	2,6	2,9
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0

Nearly half of the children aged between 3 and 12 years using out-of-school care are cared for by the informal network: 45,5 % of the children is cared for by family members and 2,6% by neighbours and friends. The second most important type of care is provided by and in the school. This share currently amounts to 28,4 %. Out-of-school Care Initiatives cover 12,4% of the care and are the third most important type of care.

There are no significant differences between the group of children aged 3 to 6 years and the group of children aged 6 to 12 years.

The eldest group of children makes more often use of care provided in and by the school than the youngest group. The group of children aged between 3 and 6 years however, makes slightly more often use of other formal types of care: Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs), a private child minding family, a child minding family affiliated to a service or a subsidised day care centre.

In the introduction we already indicated that the 1999 HIVA survey was conducted by means of a different method of questioning and that the sample size was limited. In order to gain insight into the evolution concerning the use of types of care we did however include the figures from the 1999 HIVA study as an indication.

Table 14 – Main type of care for children aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region - 1999 (users)¹

Main type of care – percentage of users				
	3 to 6 years		6 to 12 years	
	N=290		N=64	
Grandparents	45,2	} 52,4	34,3	} 49,2
Other family, friends	7,2		14,9	
Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs)	10,7		4,5	35,8
Care provided by and in school	26,3		0,0	
Child minding family affiliated to a service	3,6		1,5	
Private child minding family	4,8		1,5	
Subsidised day care centre	0,0		0,0	
Private day care centre	0,2		7,5	
Other	2,0			
Total	100,0		100,0	

The care provided by the informal network for children aged between 3 and 6 years has decreased by nearly 6 %. For the children aged between 6 and 12 years this percentage has remained the same.

For the eldest age group a number of significant shifts have been registered concerning the other types of care. In comparison with 1999 we see that the share of Out-of-school Care

¹ Vanpée K., L.Sannen en G. Hedeboew (2000), "Child Care in Flanders: Use, choice of child care type and evaluation by parents", p. 63

Initiatives (IBOs) has increased by 7 % while the share of care provided by and in school has dropped by more than 5 %.

The growth of Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBO) certainly plays an important part in this. Since 1999 the number of IBO-spaces has increased by nearly 6000 spaces.

Table 15 - Relative share of out-of-school care in a family environment and in a group environment in the Flemish Region in 1999 and in 2002

	1999		2002	
	3-6 years N = 284	6-12 years N = 59	3-6 years N = 849	6-12 years N = 1350
Family environment	60,8	50,7	56,1	55,3
Group environment	39,2	49,3	43,9	44,7
Total	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

The relative share of out-of-school care provided in the family environment for children aged between 3 and 6 years is slightly higher than for children aged between 6 and 12 years. In comparison with 1999, the share of out-of-school care provided in the family environment for children aged between 3 and 6 years has dropped by nearly 5 % while for children aged between 6 and 12 years it has increased by nearly 5 %. As a result, the share of care provided in the family environment amounts to about 55% for both age groups.

2.2. Use of the various Types of Care: Geographical Differences

Table 16 - Relative share of the three main types of care for children aged between 3 and 12 years according to the province – 2002 (1) (N =2265)

	Informal care	Care in and by the school	Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs)
Antwerp	50,6	26,3	9,9
Flemish Brabant	47,9	33,4	10,8
West Flanders	41,3	32,9	10,8
East Flanders	50,3	29,1	12,6
Limburg	49,6	17,2	21,9
Flemish Region	48,2	28,4	12,4

(1) $\chi^2 = 66,693$ $df = 12$ $p \leq 0,001$ (s.)

Apart from the differences in the degree of use of out-of-school care according to the province and the districts (see 1.2. and 1.3) the survey also investigates whether there are differences with regard to the used types of care.

Table 16 shows that the share of informal care is more or less the same in the different provinces, except for the province of West Flanders where the share of care provided by the informal sector is lowest. The share of care provided by and in school is lowest in the province of Limburg and highest in the provinces of Flemish Brabant and West Flanders. The share of Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs) is lowest in the province of Antwerp (9,9%) and clearly highest in the province of Limburg (21,9 %).

Table 17 - Relative share of out-of-school care in a family environment and in a group environment according to the province – 2002 (1) (N =2198)

	Family environment	Group environment	Total
Antwerp	60,5	39,5	100,0
Flemish Brabant	53,2	46,8	100,0
West Flanders	51,2	48,8	100,0
East Flanders	55,3	44,7	100,0
Limburg	55,8	44,2	100,0
Flemish Region	55,6	44,4	100,0

(1) $\chi^2 = 151,260$ df = 8 p = 0,43 (ns.)

The share of care provided in a family environment or in a group environment does not differ significantly according to the province. The share of care provided in a group environment is lowest in the province of Antwerp (39,5%) and highest in the province of West Flanders (48,8%).

III. THE USE OF OUT-OF-SCHOOL CARE ACCORDING TO THE INSTANCE OF CARE

Apart from the question how many children make at least once per week use of out-of-school care, it is also interesting to examine how many children make use of out-of-school care per instance of care. In this section, we focus on the use of care on Wednesday afternoons when schools are closed.

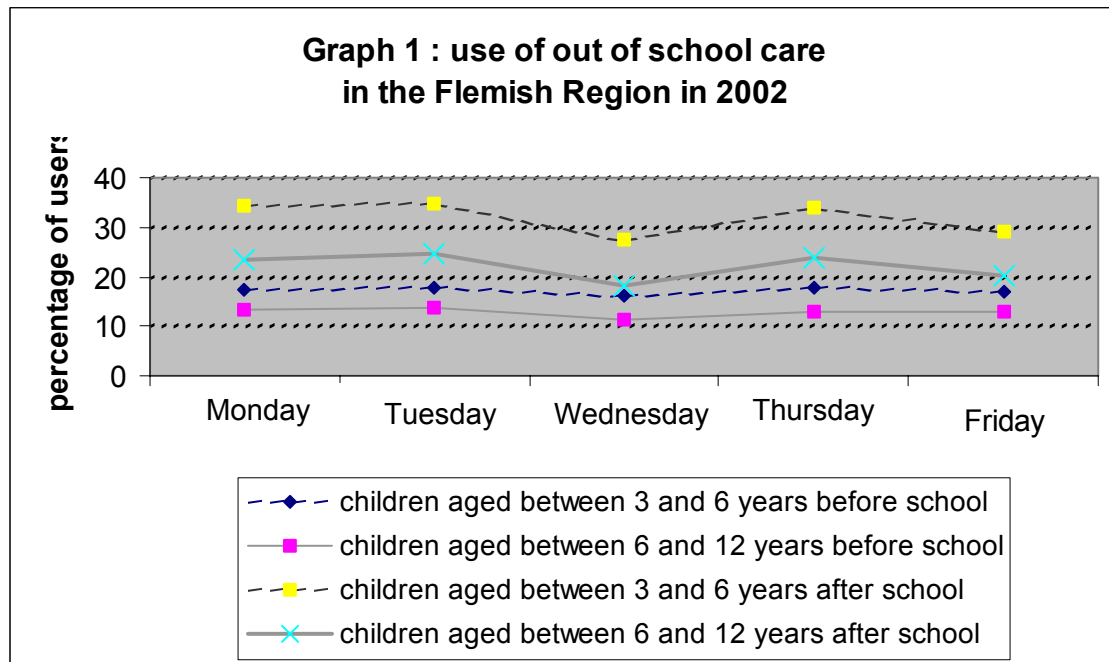
1. In the Flemish Region

Table 18 shows us the percentage of children aged between 3 and 12 years using out-of-school care per instance of care. It is striking that only a limited number of children make use of care on Wednesdays before school, namely 12,7 %. Also on other days of the week we see that merely 14 % to 15 % of all the children are cared for before school.

Table 18 - Percentage of out-of-school care users aged between 3 and 12 years in the Flemish Region according to the instance of care – 2002 (N=5065)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Before school	14,6	15,0	12,7	14,5	14,1
After school	26,9	28,0	21,2	27,2	27,2

The busiest instance of care is on Tuesday after school: 28% of all the children use out-of-school care at that time of the week. The use is slightly lower during other evenings. On Wednesday afternoons the use is lower by one quarter (21,2%). The use for children aged between 3 and 6 years and between 6 and 12 years follows the same pattern except that the use for children aged between 6 and 12 years is systematically lower than the use for children aged between 3 and 6 years. Graph 1 shows the use of out-of-school care per instance of care and per age group.



2. According to the Province

Table 19 shows the use of care per province on Wednesday afternoons and the instance of care during which the use is highest.

In all provinces the busiest instance of care is Tuesday evening, except in the province of Antwerp, where the busiest instance of care is Thursday evening. During the busiest instance of care 1 out of 3 children makes use of out-of-school care in the province of East Flanders.

In the provinces of West Flanders and Limburg less than 1 child out of 4 makes use of out-of-school care.

On Wednesday afternoons the highest number of users is recorded in the province of Flemish Brabant with 1 child out of 4. Whereas in the Flemish Region the average use on Wednesday afternoons is a quarter lower than during the busiest instance of care, the use on Wednesday afternoons is nearly as high as during the busiest instance of care in the province of West Flanders.

Table 19 – Percentage of out-of-school care users aged between 3 and 12 years during the busiest instance of care and on Wednesday afternoons according to the province – 2002

	% users on Wednesday afternoons	% users during the busiest instance of care	Comparison between users on Wednesday afternoons/ busiest instance of care
Antwerp	18,5	26,1	70,9
Flemish Brabant	26,1	32,8	79,6
West Flanders	20,6	22,8	90,4
East Flanders	23,3	34,0	68,5
Limburg	17,9	24,1	74,3
Flemish Region	21,2	28,0	75,7

IV. CONCLUSION

In the autumn of 2002 nearly 45 % of the children aged between 3 and 12 years made use of out-of-school care during the week. This means that in the course of one week the children are at least once taken care of before or after school or on Wednesday afternoons. The use of out-of-school care for children aged between 3 and 6 years is more than 10 % higher than for children aged between 6 and 12 years.

The degree in which out-of-school care is used differs significantly according to the province and the district. For children aged between 3 and 6 years the use is highest in the province of Flemish Brabant followed by the province of East Flanders. For children aged between 6 and 12 years the use is highest in the province of East Flanders, while the province of Limburg has the lowest share of users.

As children become older, the use of out-of-school care decreases. Whereas more than 55% of the 3-year-olds use out-of-school care, less than 1 child out of 3 uses out-of-school care from the age of 10 years.

The mother's occupational situation is an important factor in the use or non-use of out-of-school care. Merely 10 % of the non-working women make use of out-of-school care. For the share of working mothers the percentage of use lies between 57,4 % for part time working mothers and 26,9% for self-employed mothers.

More than 6 children out of 10 using out-of-school care are not or only once taken care of before school. Nearly 30 % of the children using out-of-school care make no or little use of care after school. 17% of the users are cared for 4 or 5 days per week both before and after school. Not only the percentage of users differs according to the province, also the intensity of use differs. For children in the province of Flemish Brabant the largest number of instances of care per week has been registered.

Nearly half of the children are cared for by the informal network: 43,1 % of the children is cared for by grandparents and 5 % by another family member, neighbours or friends. Care provided by and in school is the second most important type of care with 28,4 %. The Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs) are the third most important type of care with 12,4 %. The relative share of care provided by the Out-of-school Care Initiatives is highest in the province of Limburg and lowest in the province of Antwerp.

When examining the use of out-of-school care per instance of care we notice that the busiest instance of care is on Tuesday after school: 28 % of all the children make use of out-of-school care on Tuesday evenings. On Wednesday afternoons the use is lower by one quarter (21,2%). On Wednesdays before school children make the least use of care, namely 12,7 %. Also during the other days of the week we see that merely 14 to 15 % of the children make use of care before school.

V. ENCLOSURE**Percentage of children aged between 3 and 12 years using out-of-school care according to the district in 2002**

	3 to 6 years N=1645 (1)	6 to 12 years N=3426 (2)	3 to 12 years N=5065 (3)
Antwerp	52,7	38,1	43,2
Mechelen	55,3	37,9	43,4
Turnhout	55,2	36,5	42,1
<i>Antwerp</i>	<i>53,7</i>	<i>37,6</i>	<i>43,0</i>
Halle- Vilvoorde	56,8	39,1	44,8
Leuven	57,0	43,8	47,8
<i>Flemish Brabant</i>	<i>56,9</i>	<i>41,5</i>	<i>46,4</i>
Brugge	45,2	41,5	42,7
Diksmuide	52,9	33,3	41,5
Ieper	48,6	34,5	40,4
Kortrijk	62,3	41,7	47,8
Oostende	37,8	41,2	39,7
Roeselare	60,0	45,0	50,4
Tielt	48,4	30,2	38,4
Veurne	53,8	24,2	32,6
<i>West Flanders</i>	<i>51,8</i>	<i>39,4</i>	<i>43,3</i>
Aalst	56,0	52,9	53,8
Dendermonde	40,7	40,8	40,8
Eeklo	63,3	52,5	57,7
Gent	59,0	48,1	51,3
Oudenaarde	58,1	50,0	52,7
Sint-Niklaas	54,1	37,8	43,1
<i>East Flanders</i>	<i>55,4</i>	<i>46,7</i>	<i>49,5</i>
Hasselt	51,0	43,6	45,7
Maaseik	46,8	28,0	34,0
Tongeren	45,3	29,4	34,8
<i>Limburg</i>	<i>48,1</i>	<i>36,3</i>	<i>39,9</i>
Flemish Region	53,6	40,5	44,7

(1) $\chi^2 = 20,079$ df = 21 p = 0,516 (ns.)(2) $\chi^2 = 48,491$ df = 21 p \leq 0,001 (s.)(3) $\chi^2 = 50,669$ df = 21 p \leq 0,001 (s.)

VI. *QUESTIONNAIRE*

Survey Concerning the Use of Out-of-school Care - Autumn 2002

Good morning/afternoon my name is of Merlijn Marketeer. We are currently conducting a survey for Kind en Gezin concerning the use of out-of-school care. The aim of this survey is to gear child care as well as possible to the families' needs.

May I ask you a number of questions concerning the week of Monday ... to Friday ...? This will only take a few minutes.

1. Yes
2. No = stop (survey is invalid)
3. More info: If there are respondents who wish to receive more information, please refer them to the following persons of Kind & Gezin:

1. Does your family include children aged between 3 and 12 years (22/11/1990 and 03/11/1999)?

1. Yes
2. No = stop (survey is invalid)

2. Could you tell me the dates of birth?

Child 1 :	Child 2 :
Child 3 :	Child 4 :
Child 5 :	Child 6 :
Child 7 :	Child 8 :
Child 9 :	Child 10 :

(-> Let the computer select the first born from the list).

3. May I ask you a number of questions concerning your child born on ... ?

1. Yes
2. No = stop (survey is invalid)

4. In which municipality does your child attend school?

* Child does not attend school = stop

5. Was your child ill during the week of Monday ... to Friday ... and did it consequently not attend school? (If necessary, please clarify which week is concerned).

- * Yes -> stop (survey is invalid)
- * No -> Please proceed

6. Was your child cared for by a child care provision in the week from Monday ... to Friday ... ? The term child care refers to the fact that your child has been taken care of by other persons than yourself, your partner or the child's siblings who live with you.

1. Yes
2. No
3. No, residential care in an institution
4. No, stay at a boarding school
- * if no -> go to 9
- * if yes -> go to 7

7. Which type of care did your child enjoy every day of the week from Monday ... to Friday ... while your child attended a whole school day?

Mo. -AM:
 Municipality: other:
 -PM:
 Municipality: other:

Tue. - AM:
 Municipality: other:
 - PM:
 Municipality: other:

Wed. - AM:
 Municipality: other:
 - PM:
 Municipality: other:

Thur. - AM:
 Municipality: other:
 - PM:
 Municipality: other:

Fri. - AM:
 Municipality: other:
 - PM:
 Municipality: other:

{"1. Did not attend an entire school day	"}"1 "}
{"2. Did not attend school	"}"2 "}
{"3. Care provided at home by a family member (see question 6)	"}"3 "}
{"4. Grandparents	"}"4 "}
{"5. Other family members besides grandparents	"}"5 "}
{"6. Other adults such as friends, neighbours, acquaintances	"}"6 "}
{"7. Out-of-school care situated IN and organised BY primary school	"}"7 "}
{"8. Out-of-school Care Initiatives (IBOs)	"}"8 "}
{"9. Child minding family affiliated to a service	"}"9 "}
{"10. Private child minding family supervised by K&G	"}"10"}
{"11. Private child minding family registered with K&G	"}"11"}
{"12. Subsidised day care centre, day nursery, kindergarten	"}"12"}
{"13. Private day care centre, day nursery,.. (with a tax certificate)	"}"13"}
{"14. Private day care centre, day nursery,.. (WITHOUT a tax certificate)	"}"14"}
{"15. Local Employment Agency	"}"15"}
{"16. Household personnel	"}"16"}
{"17. Centre for Child Care and Family Support	"}"17"}
{"18. Babysitter	"}"18"}
{"19. Care in an institution (-> question 6 = 3 , go to 9)	"}"19"}
{"20. Stay in a boarding school (-> question 6 = 4 , go to 9)	"}"20"}
{"21. Other: please add:	"}"21"}
{"88. Not applicable	"}"88"}
{"99. Missing	"}"99"}

8. How much is the total parental contribution you had to pay during the concerning week for formal care for your child?

9. What is your family situation? (include all family members)

1. married/living together
2. single mother
3. single father

10. What is your employment situation and (if applicable) that of your partner?

- Male partner:
- Female partner:

{"1. Full time employment	","1" }
{"2. Part time employment	","2" }
{"3. Maternity leave	","3" }
{"4. Parental leave	","4" }
{"5. On sick leave or on disability	","5" }
{"6. Career break	","6" }
{"7. Unpaid leave	","7" }
{"8. Unemployed with benefit	","8" }
{"9. Unemployed without benefit	","9" }
{"10. Student	","10" }
{"11. Housewife/househusband	","11" }
{"12. Pensioned	","12" }
{"13. Other, please fill in:	","13" }
{"88. Not applicable	","88" }
{"99. Missing	